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CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A fishing rod support, the support comprising:
  - a) a restriction member being a substantially vertical, elongated member having a vertical, longitudinal axis, and a [an] vertical opening from one end of said member and extending substantially along said vertical axis, which vertical opening is configured to receive a portion of a fishing rod, so that [wherein] said vertical opening [is configured to] substantially limits rotational movement of the rod about said [a substantially] vertical [support] axis [passing through the rod portion]; and
    - b) a retaining member, co-axial to, and operatively coupled [to] to the restriction member so that said retaining member slides along said vertical axis of said restriction member, and having a wall section which defines a horizontal opening along the side of said retaining member [configured to releasably inhibit vertical movement of the rod portion], and wherein said retaining member is relatively movable between:
      - i) a substantially closed position in which said restriction member blocks said horizontal opening and prevents access to said vertical opening through said horizontal opening; [opening is closed, and upward vertical movement of said rod portion along said vertical support axis, and thus, removal of said fishing rod from said fishing rod support, is inhibited]; and
      - ii) an open position in which said restriction member does not block said horizontal opening, so that access to said vertical opening through said horizontal opening is available, and wherein said retaining member is normally biased to said closed position, and a [opening is open, and] upward vertical movement of said rod portion moves said retaining member from said closed position to said open position whereby [is] substantially uninhibited [in order to effect] removal of said fishing rod from said vertical opening through said horizontal opening and thus from said fishing rod support is possible.

2. (Original) The support as claimed in claim 1, wherein the restriction member comprises at least one substantially vertically aligned rod guide.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Original) The support as claimed in claim 1, wherein the retaining member is substantially tubular.
5. (Original) The support as claimed in claim 4, wherein the restriction member is substantially tubular.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Original) The support as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a body portion operatively coupled to the restriction member.
8. (Original) The support as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a ground engager configured to releasably secure the support to the ground.
9. (Original) The support as claimed in claim 8, wherein the ground engager comprises an auger bit.
10. (Original) The support as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support further comprises a mount.
11. (Original) The support as claimed in claim 10, for use with a fishing rod handle holder having a pocket for receiving a fishing rod handle, wherein the pocket is substantially aligned with a pocket axis and wherein the pocket axis forms an angle of deflection to the vertical, wherein the body of the support further comprises a neck portion, and wherein the neck portion forms an angle which is substantially supplementary to the angle of deflection.

12. (Original) The support as claimed in claim 11, wherein the mount is configured to engage the pocket.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The support as claimed in claim 2, wherein said substantially vertically aligned rod guide is a substantially vertical slot.

15. (New) The support as claimed in claim 1 wherein said vertical opening is a V-shaped slot extending from one end of said restriction member.

16. (New) The support as claimed in claim 1 wherein said horizontal opening is defined so as to have an upwardly angled upper surface so that said rod portion slides upwards and outwards when exiting from said restriction member.